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UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 000510

SIPDIS

FOR WHA/PDA, WHA/PPC, WHA/CEN, AND INL/LP  
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EMBASSIES FOR PAOS, IOS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL  
STRATEGY REPORT (INCSR), MARCH 7, 2005

1. On 3/5, the Tegucigalpa-based moderate daily "El Herald" carried a half-page article entitled "Commended in anti-drug fight by U.S. report" with the subheading "Minister Oscar Alvarez says these results have cost blood, sweat and tears." It also ran a statement by Minister of Public Security Alvarez, "We appreciate the State Department acknowledging the work we've done, because we don't have the logistics or the financial resources to engage in a face-to-face fight against drug trafficking, whereas drug traffickers have access to an unlimited quantity of money, and yet we've been successful."

2. The San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "Tiempo" on 3/5 ran an EFE story entitled "State Department: Drug shipments through Honduras have continued at an `alarming rate'" with the subheading "Despite that, they acknowledge the government has accomplished `great seizures' of marijuana and other assets linked to drug trafficking."

Palmer